Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A containment vessel of a nuclear power plant, comprising:

an interior space;

a condensing chamber disposed in said interior space, said condensing chamber being filled to a filling level with a cooling liquid;

a pressure chamber disposed in said interior space, said pressure chamber having a top region;

a condenser communicating with said pressure chamber through a flow path;

a condensing pipe leading into said condensing chamber; and

a drain pipe for noncondensible gases, said drain pipe disposed in said interior space and fluidically connecting said top region of said pressure chamber to said condensing

chamber, said drain pipe defining a direct connection to said condensing chamber, and said drain pipe not connected to said condenser, said drain pipe having an upper end disposed at a level above said condenser and laterally in a ~~close local relationship with~~ vicinity of said condenser and a bottom end immersed into said cooling liquid.

Claim 2 (currently amended). A containment vessel of a nuclear power plant, comprising:

an interior space;

a condensing chamber disposed in said interior space, said condensing chamber being filled to a filling level with a cooling liquid;

a pressure chamber disposed in said interior space;

a condenser disposed in said pressure chamber and defining a region around said condenser;

a condensing pipe leading into said condensing chamber; and

a drain pipe for noncondensible gases, said drain pipe fluidically connecting said region around said condenser to

said condensing chamber, and said drain pipe having a top end disposed above said condenser, and said drain pipe defining a direct connection to said condensing chamber, and said drain pipe not connected to said condenser, said drain pipe having an upper end disposed at a level above said condenser and laterally in a ~~close local relationship with~~ vicinity of said condenser and a bottom end immersed into said cooling liquid.

Claim 3 (original). The containment vessel according to claim 1, wherein said drain pipe forms a permanently open flow path.

Claim 4 (original). The containment vessel according to claim 2, wherein said drain pipe forms a permanently open flow path.

Claims 5-6 (cancelled).

Claim 7 (previously presented). The containment vessel according to claim 1, wherein said condensing pipe ends below said bottom end of said drain pipe.

Claim 8 (previously presented). The containment vessel according to claim 2, wherein said condensing pipe ends below said bottom end of said drain pipe.

Claim 9 (withdrawn). The containment vessel according to claim 1, including an external cooling basin, said condenser fluidically communicating with said external cooling basin.

Claim 10 (withdrawn). The containment vessel according to claim 2, including an external cooling basin, said condenser fluidically communicating with said external cooling basin.

Claim 11 (withdrawn). A method of operating a condenser in a nuclear power plant, which comprises:

providing a condenser in a nuclear power plant, defining a region above the condenser; and

automatically drawing off noncondensible gases from the region above the condenser.

Claim 12 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 11, which further comprises directing the noncondensible gases into a condensing chamber.

Claim 13 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 11, which further comprises directing the noncondensible gases into a cooling liquid located in a condensing chamber.

Claim 14 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 11, which further comprises directing the noncondensible gases above an outlet orifice of a condensing pipe into a cooling liquid located in a condensing chamber.